The rejection of claims 1-2, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to be obviated by the extensive amendments to the claims, and further for the reason that none of the prior art, i.e., Atchission, Christensen and Allyn suggests that the combination of locator lands on each side of said barrel extension means extending into aperture means through each side of a receiver section and welded together would provide an enormously strengthened joint which can withstand years of vibrational shock. Also, this concept allows rapid and greatly improved accuracy of assembly of the gun.

Further in regards to Allyn, it is applicant's understanding (but by no means a certainty) that the Office Action is arguing a similarity between (1) Allyn's welding of smooth surfaces of his side plates 104 and 106 to smooth surfaces of his spacer member 51 to provide a housing assembly 50, and (2) Applicant's provision of locator projections 502 extending laterally outwardly from opposite side surfaces of his barrel extension 120 and into locator apertures 504 formed through sides 117L and 117R of this receiver section 41, whereby these structures 120 and 41 are first accurately positioned with respect to each other by the locator elements 502 and 504 and then welded together. It is submitted that drawing such a similarity between such disparate structures and their functions is outside the province of a 103 rejection and its withdrawal is requested.

Further in regard to Christensen, the holes 82 and 92 therein are aligned, presumably, by structure such as recess 90 and ledge 91, and the parts 72 and 68' secured together by press fit pins 94 (or rivets?). It is not readily envisioned how or where welds could be applied, and certainly not in the manner claimed by Applicant. In this regard, it is not seen where frame member 68' is provided by two separate plate members which would allow

the use of locator projections and apertures as in Applicant's invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is also urged.

In view of the extensive amendments herein and the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all claims herein is respectfully solicited

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 7 is a view as in Fig. 4 but shown with the clip in its half-way inserted spread posture.

Detailed Description

Referring to the drawings and with particular reference to the claims herein, the present construction modifies the connection means between a barrel extension such as item 120 and a barrel such as 40 and also receiver sides such as items (plates) 117L and 117R of the aforesaid patent 4,693,170 as shown in Figs. 2, 3, 13 and 31 thereof. In said patent the connection is made between all three of these structures by four rivets 118 which are headed over (clinched) on the outside of plates 117L and 117R. In this construction shown particularly in applicants' Fig. 6 taken from Fig. 31 of said patent and wherein additional new numbering is added where necessary for clarity starting at 500, rivets 118 tightly nest in transverse grooves 500 across the top and bottom of the inner end (breech end) of barrel 40 and thereby fix the barrel to barrel extension 120 and thus to receiver section 41 (see aforesaid patent). This structure, of course, prevents removal of the barrel which can cause great inconvenience where it is desired to replace a damaged barrel or to replace the barrel with another type, e.g., from shotgun to rifle.

Referring to the present drawings wherein the numbering of parts, where relevant, is the same as in said 4,693,170 patent, the barrel extension 120 having shell receiving cavity 505 is preferably formed on the outside surfaces of both sides with locator lands 502 having first edge portions 503 which can be of any configuration but preferably of a shape to coincide substantially with second edge portions 501 of apertures 504 formed thru each side 117L and 117R of receiver section 41. Welds such as 506 are formed between the adjacent edges of the lands, or sides of 120 where lands are not provided, and of apertures 504. In the drawing (Fig. 5) excessive clearance between these adjacent first and second edges is shown, as well as unwelded portions, for clarity. Precision mating of these edges

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thru each plate 117L and 117R to allow insertion of the arms and to allow the inner edge 536 of body portion 516 to lie flush with the barrel extension side. It is preferred that a cut-out 538 be provided in said inner edge 536 to allow for the insertion of a tool such as a screwdriver or knife blade to assist in extracting the clip, if necessary. It is noted that the clip 508 can be inserted thru either side of the receiver section.

As shown in the drawings, the aforementioned barrel clamping mechanism comprises a slot 540 cut longitudinally thru the bottom wall portion 542 of the forward portion of the barrel extension 120 from the front edge 544 thereof back to approximately the barrel abutment shoulder 546 on the wall 547 of the barrel extension 120 bore. Extending down on the sides of slot 540 are projections 548 and 550. One projection is provided with a threaded bore 552 which receives a tightening means such as a bolt or Allen screw or the like 554. The clearance between the extension bore wall 547 and the barrel breech end 526 is small such that a tightening turn or so of screw 554 will squeeze wall 547 against breech end 526 of the barrel and further secure it within the extension bore.

The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to preferred embodiments thereof, but it will be understood that variations and modifications will be effected with the spirit and scope of the invention.